

Fahd to activate \$2b Lebanon fund

JEDDAH (AP) — King Fahd has decided to activate a \$2 billion fund for reconstruction of Lebanon, devastated by 15 years civil war. Lebanon diplomats said Sunday. King Fahd conveyed his decision to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi during the latter's two-day visit to the kingdom which ended Sunday. The promised financial support would considerably ease Lebanon's economic hardships. It also would boost confidence in the government's ability to preserve peace and restore normalcy in Lebanon. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the diplomat said in addition to activating the fund, King Fahd promised to extend other grants to Lebanon and a joint Lebanese-Saudi committee was formed to look into that country's needs. Saudi Arabia was the second fund of a Gulf trip to drum up financial support for post-civil war reconstruction. Mr. Hrawi last week visited Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates where he was promised support, but nothing as concrete as the pledges he reportedly got from King Fahd. Saudi Arabia was a key mediator in the Lebanese peace accord that ended the 1973-90 civil strife.

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Iraq arrests 300 traders for overcharging

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's economic crime squads have arrested 300 traders in a crackdown on overcharging. The newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, reporting the latest phase in Iraq's struggle with the effects of Gulf war trade sanctions, called Sunday for a "deadly strike against these thieves, who deserve everybody's curse." Penalties for overcharging on price-controlled basic foods include six months in prison and confiscation of goods. But a similar crackdown last year led to the execution of 42 traders. An official newspaper warned last week that "harsh and stiff penalties" imposed in the past had not been effective. The authorities now threaten to arrest customers who pay inflated prices as well as the traders who sell to them, although there are no reports that they have actually done so. Lieutenant-Colonel Hashim Mohammad Faraj warned in a newspaper interview that his economic crime squads, scattered all around Baghdad, would not hesitate to treat both parties of an illegal bargain alike.

Jordan Times

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Arab meeting to go ahead in Cairo

DOHA (R) — Arab League foreign ministers will meet in Cairo this month despite attempts by some Arab states to have the talks shifted to another capital because of a wave of violence in Egypt, a senior Arab official said Sunday. The official said in the Qatari capital that a majority of the league's 21 members had voted to block the proposal to move the venue of the meeting scheduled for later this month. The source would not say which countries favoured holding the meeting outside Egypt. Sources in Rabat said in March that Morocco had offered to host the meeting to discuss the Middle East peace process. "We should not be the ones to run at the first sign of trouble," said the Arab official whose country voted against moving the meeting.

Resistance, Israeliis trade artillery fire

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — Resistance fighters launched two attacks on Israeli troops in South Lebanon Sunday, drawing retaliatory artillery barrages, security sources said. There was no immediate word on casualties, added the sources. But the Hezbollah claimed that three Israeli soldiers were killed in the second attack. A Hezbollah communiqué said its guerrillas fired several mortar rounds on a hilltop Israeli army position in Shoumariyah at 4:10 p.m. (1310 GMT), on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. It said two Israeli armoured vehicles were set on fire. A second guerrilla squad detonated a roadside bomb while an Israeli patrol was driving towards Shoumariyah from the vicinity of the Crusader-built Beaufort Castle. "The explosion went off as enemy soldiers headed to inspect the two burning vehicles, killing three Israeli soldiers," the statement said. The claim could not be immediately substantiated.

Aid agencies evacuate Kismayu

MOGADISHU (R) — Two leading aid agencies have pulled out of the southern Somali port of Kismayu because they fear they will be attacked by warring clans, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday. Farouk Mawlawi told reporters the Brussels-based aid group Médecins Sans Frontières had withdrawn its staff from Kismayu. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the main distributor of food in the area, closed down its Kismayu operation Wednesday after hand grenades lobbed into the ICRC compound (see page 2 for stories related to Somalia).

Pakistan vows to fail Kashmir march

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan vowed Sunday to stop thousands of demonstrators threatening to storm across the disputed ceasefire line into India's violence-wracked Kashmir state. Authorities dynamited giant chunks of the mountain to block the only road leading to the narrow border crossing at Chakothi, about 50 kilometres from the Himalayan capital of Muzaffarabad. "We'll stop them. They won't be allowed to cross the border. They won't be allowed to get close," said Interior Minister Shujaat Hussain. But the march organiser, Mumtaz Rathore, vowed to risk death rather than turn back. "We will continue until death stops us, not before," Mr. Rathore told a frenzied mob of demonstrators.

Bomb hoax at AUC

CAIRO (AP) — The American University in Cairo (AUC) was partially evacuated Sunday after an anonymous caller claimed a bomb was planted in the library. A nearly two-hour search of the university's main library and a smaller one containing a collection of rare books found no bombs and classes resumed normally. The American University in Cairo is a private university, accredited in the United States. It was founded in 1919. Security has been increased at the university with uniformed guards at the gates checking bags of people entering the campus, for fear of attacks by Muslim militants who escalated their violent campaign last year. Dozens of plainclothes security men also have crowded downtown area.

Major changes at Armed Forces

Abu Taleb retires; Mirai is named successor Shurdom leaves service, named King's advisor

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sunday made several changes in the hierarchy of the Armed Forces, continuing a series of retirements and replacements at the head of the Kingdom's security forces.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said a royal decree was issued endorsing a Cabinet decision to accept a request by Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that he be retired.

Another decree named Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh as Field Marshal Abu Taleb's successor.

The King also endorsed a Cabinet decision to retire Lieutenant-General Ihsan Hamed Shurdom, chief of staff of the Air Force, upon his request, and appointed him as an advisor to His Majesty.

Informed sources said more reshuffles and reassessments as well as retirements were expected at the Armed Forces headquarters.

That will be carried by Lt.-Gen. Mirai, whose appointment takes effect from Monday.

Gen. Kaabneh, 56, who served as member of the Jordanian delegation to peace talks with Israel, was the chief of military intelligence prior to his promotion Monday.

The new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a graduate of the



Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb

Royal Military Academy of Jordan, holds a masters degree in military science from the Royal College of Defence Studies in England.

In 1962, he was awarded the Medal for Gallantry, Jordan's highest decoration for heroism in the battlefield.

Royal decrees issued Sunday accepted the retirement of Fadel Ali Freid as director-general of the Public Security Department (PSD) and appointed Major-General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan, congratulating him on his post and voicing absolute support for and pride in the security services of Jordan.

"We take pride in the armed forces which has inherited the noble values of the Great Arab Revolt and therefore the army should be ready to offer sacrifice in defence of the Arab Nation," the King added.

King Hussein voiced his absolute confidence in the Armed Forces and the new chief and

Revolt and defending its principles," the King said.

Praising Field Marshal Abu Taleb's service over the past 40 years in the Armed Forces, the King said that the retired chief of staff will always "remain a dear brother" enjoying his absolute confidence, affection and appreciation.

King Hussein also congratulated the new army chief wishing him success in his leadership of the Armed Forces.

"I have known you as a courageous and faithful soldier and one among a distinguished elite of senior officers who continue to enjoy my affection and who continue to struggle to uphold the principles of the Arab Nation and defend its honour," King Hussein said.

In reaffirming the need for the armed forces' continued preparedness, the King said "every effort should be made to raise the standards of the Armed Forces and the armed forces institutions and colleges."

"We take pride in the armed forces which has inherited the noble values of the Great Arab Revolt and therefore the army should be ready to offer sacrifice in defence of the Arab Nation," the King added.

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(Continued on page 5)

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday opened an Arab Labour Conference with the participation of all Arab League member states including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia along with the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.

The delegations to the conference include employers, workers and government representatives.

Labor Minister Abdul Karim Al Kababri, who will represent Jordan at the meeting, said in a statement Sunday that Jordan would submit a working paper proposing a practical mechanism to deal with the problem of unemployment in the Arab World.

The working paper calls for a

(Continued on page 5)

gradual reduction of the volume of unemployment as an initial stage and drastically tackling the problem in the second stage, the minister said.

He said that Jordan was calling for the creation of national funds in the Arab countries suffering from high levels of unemployment to finance small-size income-generating projects, especially those operated by college graduates, and for vocational training in agrarian reform, construction and other fields.

Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kababri added that the strategic document in this regard will hinge on the economic situation in the Arab World indicating the disparities between economic growths in Arab countries, with clear reference to the levels of

(Continued on page 5)



Lt.-Gen. Abdal Hafez Mirai Kaabneh

In a message he sent Sunday to Field Marshal Abu Taleb, the King paid tribute to the outgoing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"I have known you throughout your working life in the military, offering a distinguished performance and serving as a true faithful soldier and a true military leader never shirking his responsibility," the King said in his message.

"You have lived through the various stages of the development of the Armed Forces alongside officers and troops, and through your efforts you have helped in building up a distinguished armed forces which serve as a shield protecting the nation and holding the standard of the Great Arab

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Middle East News

Bouez: U.S. siding with Israel in peace process

DOHA (R) — Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bouez has said the Clinton administration was siding with Israel instead of being an impartial mediator in the stalled Middle East peace process.

"Assuming a role of a fair and trusted mediator means that the United States cannot be a strategic ally of Israel and at the same time be a fair or trusted mediator," Mr. Bouez said.

He was speaking to Reuters Saturday in the Qatari capital of Doha where he is holding talks on economic cooperation.

Mr. Bouez criticised statements by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Congress last week in which he described Israel as Washington's strategic ally and expressed commitment to the Jewish state's military superiority in the region.

"There is mystery and vagueness in some contradictory statements that are made and what is needed is a clarification of these positions in a firm way," Mr. Bouez said.

He said teams representing the Arabs involved in the peace process — Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Palestinians — would go to Washington on April 10 to seek clarification of Mr. Christopher's comments.

The Arab-Israeli peace talks launched in Madrid 17 months ago were stalled by Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians on December 17 to South Lebanon.

Mr. Bouez said the Arab negotiating teams were also awaiting the outcome of Egyptian Presi-

DON HOSNI MUBARAK'S talks with President Bill Clinton in Washington this week.

He said Mr. Mubarak would focus on a time frame for the return of all the expellees rather than a phased return by the end of the year as had been suggested by Washington.

"We are not asking for something new. We are demanding that the United States abide by its role as stipulated in the letters of assurances," presented by the former administration of President George Bush before the Middle East peace conference in Madrid in October 1991.

Asked what the Arabs wanted from the United States, Mr. Bouez said it had to "play an effective role, be a true driving force and a full partner in the peace process."

He said Lebanon would not go to the negotiating table without the Palestinian team. "We either all go or nobody goes. I assert that we will not accept any intermediate divisions."

Mr. Bouez said he would meet the foreign ministers of Syria and Jordan and the foreign affairs chief of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on April 16 to decide whether to accept an invitation by the United States and Russia to Arabs and Israelis to attend the ninth round of talks on April 20 in Washington.

They met in Damascus on March 28, but delayed a decision to allow time for consultations among Arab states and the co-sponsors on resolving the expel-

lee crisis.

Palestinians say they want U.S. guarantees that Israel carries out promises offered to Palestinians to revive the talks.

The pledges in return for Palestinian participation in the April 20 talks included rescheduling the return of Palestinian expellees and a promise to offer a new proposal on self-rule for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip when the talks resume.

Israel, in a deal worked out with Washington, agreed to take back 101 expellees and repatriate the rest in phases before the end of the year. The move angered Arabs who had demanded Israel's full compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, calling for their immediate return.

In Marj Al Zohour, Lebanon, Palestinian expellees urged Arabs Sunday to reject a phased return as a compromise to restart the peace process.

He said Lebanon would not go to the negotiating table without the Palestinian team. "We either all go or nobody goes. I assert that we will not accept any intermediate divisions."

"A staged return of deportees means accepting the legality of deportation...we do not accept a staged return," spokesman Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi told reporters at their tent camp.

"We urge the PLO never to resume the peace talks even if the deportees return to our homes... If the Palestinians put a stop to the talks then all the Arabs will end them," he added.

Most of the 396 exiles remaining from 415 expelled 109 days ago are sympathisers or members of Islamic groups



MARKEPLACE: Egyptian soldiers buy products from Palestinian women at the Rafah border crossing in northeastern Egypt used for passage by most Israelis and Palestinians crossing to and from Egypt to the occupied territories (AFP photo)

Somalia's oasis of peace isolated from relief aid

BOSASSO, Somalia (R) — Politicians in Bosasso say peace is the north-eastern port's worst enemy because relief efforts target only the trouble spots in Somalia.

"All the relief efforts are concentrated on Mogadishu and the southern parts of Somalia. Rather than being rewarded for having a good security situation, I feel we are being punished," said Mohammad Abshir Muse, chairman of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), the dominant party in the region.

The handful of aid agencies in the port urged the U.N.'s special envoy, retired Admiral Jonathan Howe, to visit Bosasso Saturday. It's pump funds into the ailing district.

In line with the rest of Somalia, the region's infrastructure and economy is in tatters. But apart from the occasional thief, Mr. Muse said the arid, rocky port would be a focal development project, he said.

Bosasso's port area is the economic lifeline of the area and hundreds of thousands of goats are exported from there every year to Middle Eastern countries.

Just before the war, Italians launched an ambitious project to modernise the port, but this was shelved when fighting began.

The one-berth port, heavily guarded by men armed with AK-47 rifles, does not have a crane for loading and there are no warehouses. A rusty, disused tanker takes up a large area of the berth, but Mr. Muse said to take it away.

Like the rest of Somalia, there is no banking system in Bosasso, there are no veterinarians to issue health certificates for animals, and customs facilities are chaotic.

One goat trader, who did not want to be named, said he emigrated a man in Saudi Arabia to forge health certificates for his goats.

"I sell a goat for about \$40, but \$10 of this immediately goes to the middle man. What else can I do?" the trader said.

The United Nations, under Admiral Howe's command, and issues control of the whole of

Pirates poach Somali waters

BOSASSO, Somalia (R) — Local leaders say pirate trawlers have taken advantage of Somalia's civil war to strip the rich fishing grounds off its northeastern coast.

"We have been robbed by sea pirates of our marine resources. They are taking advantage of our national tragedy," said Mohammad Abshir Muse, chairman of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front.

The programme was meant to start in February, but not even \$10 has been spent yet," said Huntley Anderson, the U.N. director in the region.

Adm. Howe said he would speak to the UNDP on his return to Mogadishu. The town's port would be a focal development project, he said.

The former port manager, Oman Deria, said foreign ships entered Somali waters in the Gulf of Aden at night. He said the poachers used powerful spotlights and illegal, tightly spun drag nets to haul in their catch.

"When locals tried to stop them, the ships sprayed them with hot water. It's nothing more than robbery," Mr. Deria said.

Mr. Muse said Bosasso, the main port in northeastern Somalia about 650 kilometres east of Djibouti, was a bustling fishing area before the Somali war broke out just over two years ago and shut down the region's four fishing factories.

"We have one of the richest maritime coastlines in the world. Studies by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicate we could export fish to the value of about \$200 million (a year). But now our fish are being stolen," Mr. Muse said.

Local leaders said they also suspected foreign nations were dumping toxic waste in Somali waters, adding that they had asked the environmental group Greenpeace to investigate.

Mr. Muse appealed to the United Nations special envoy in Somalia, retired U.S. Admiral Jonathan Howe, to help stop the poaching.

Search warrants were executed at Ayad's home and office; Mr. Weinglass knew nothing about either.

Kate Cosenza, spokeswoman for U.S. attorney Roger Hayes, denied there had been a problem in turning over the evidence. At a Thursday hearing, U.S. District Judge Kevin T. Duffy ruled the defense would begin getting some evidence Monday.

Mr. Duffy also imposed a gag rule, over defence objections, barring further statements by either side. "The next time I pick up a paper and see a quotation from any of you, you had best be prepared to have some money," Mr. Duffy warned them.

The defence lawyers said the potential jury pool for five men arrested has been prejudiced by information — some of it bogus or otherwise inadmissible as evidence — leaked to reporters by investigators or government officials.

"It's trial by leak, trial by press conference," said Leonard Weinglass, attorney for Nidal Ayyad.

While newspapers and television stations are getting the information, the lawyers said they still have no access to basic evidence involving search warrants and other clients' statements.

"In essence, we're blind men behind a curtain fighting shadows," said lawyer Ron Kuby, representing Ibrahim Al Gabrowny.

Mr. Weinglass said he has received only a three-page inventory of items seized from Mr. Ayyad after his March 10 arrest.

Their attorneys portray the suspects as religious men, family men, innocent men.

"If you could see my client in the flesh, he looks like a Rutgers chemistry graduate," Mr. Weinglass, whose client is a chemistry graduate from the New Jersey state university. "The portraits on TV are of a bomb-throwing militant."

Mahmoud Abu Hatima's attorney, Jesse Berman, said he was stunned that his client was

greeted by a camera crew when he was flown back to the United States under tight security after his arrest in Egypt, then rushed by motorcade to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters in Manhattan.

"That's what they want: Time magazine to run photos of the four defendants," Mr. Berman said. "If there never was a trial, they'd be happy. They can't be doing better than they are now. It's all downhill from here."

But the lawyers' complaints that the leaks are poisoning potential jurors are challenged by attorneys representing the news media.

"That refrain is a constant one heard from defense counsel," said Richard Winfield, a New York lawyer who represents the Associated Press and other media. "I can think of cases with far more coverage for far longer time which produced juries who acquitted defendants."

Among the several damaging leaks cited by the defence attorneys:

"A report saying Mr. Salameh and another suspect were seen together at a gasoline station the morning of the explosion. It's completely untrue," said Mr. Precht.

— Reports of a bank account shared, by Mr. Salameh and Mr. Ayyad that was used to funnel foreign funds. "You're going to find out there was no foreign money," said Mr. Weinglass.

Mr. Kuby has another gripe. His client, Mr. Elgabrowny, has never been charged in the bombing, yet he's behind bars without bail. His crime: Scruffing with two FBI agents executing a search warrant at his apartment.

Egypt defends handover of blast suspect

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki Saturday defended his government's handing over of an Egyptian-born suspect in a New York bombing, telling parliament Mahmoud Abu Halima that his country was "effective nationality" was American.

Egypt has been drawn in to the investigation of Feb. 26 bombing at the World Trade Centre in the past week. Political leaders have suggested links between suspects in New York and a surge of political violence at home and come under attack for handing Mr. Abu Halima over to a Western power.

The government stated a day after FBI investigators took charge of Mr. Abu Halima at Cairo airport that he had freely gone back to the United States to clear his name.

But opposition newspapers

have continued to harry it with the issue, linking it to the case of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a blind Egyptian-born cleric who preached to the New York suspect and is revered by Muslim militants in Egypt as a spiritual guide.

Mr. Abu Halima left the United States just after the bombing and entered Egypt from Saudi Arabia on March 11. He was detained in his hometown on March 14 and flew back to New York on March 24.

Mr. Sedki gave the number of the German travel document Mr. Abu Halima had used to enter Egypt as a foreigner and cited international law as saying that Mr. Abu Halima's citizenship and long residence in the United States meant he was no longer Egyptian.

"This was a position not seen in Egypt's most servile days.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Aid workers warn of Sudan violence

NAIROBI (AP) — Foreign aid workers evacuated from southern Sudan said Saturday that one of the rebel factions is planning a major offensive against its rivals. Robert Hardley, an information officer with the U.N. Operation Lifeline Sudan, said there were massive movements of forces loyal to Colonel John Garang, founder of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Mr. Hardley was among 17 workers of the U.N. and other humanitarian organisations evacuated Friday. "The evacuation was due to insecurity and indications that the Garang faction was planning major attacks," Mr. Hardley said. Col. Garang heads the insurgents' so-called Torit faction. The other major group, led by Riek Machar, is called the Nasir faction. The rebels took up arms 10 years ago to press for increased autonomy for the predominantly Christian and animist south, traditionally dominated by the Muslim north. Col. Garang offered a unilateral ceasefire Feb. 18 and the government reciprocated the following day. However, clashes among the rebels have continued. The United Nations has estimated that starvation and the war have killed about 350,000 since 1990 in southern Sudan. Other aid agencies say the figure might be as high as one million over the length of the war. An estimated 2.5 million people are displaced.

11 rebels killed in eastern Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — Eleven Kurdish rebels were killed in a clash with security forces in eastern Erzincan province Saturday night, Turkish radio reported Sunday. It said seven soldiers were slightly wounded. More than 5,400 people have been killed in violence related to the armed campaign launched in 1984 by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) for a separate homeland in southeastern Turkey.

Iran parliament chief to visit Europe

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri will visit Croatia, Greece and Poland from Tuesday, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Saturday. Mr. Nateq-Nouri, who is a Muslim cleric, will be accompanied by Iran's ministers of commerce and housing and a number of parliament deputies on the week-long official tour, it said.

Syria gets \$300 million phone system

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria has begun using a new international dialing exchange as part of a \$300 million project to expand and upgrade the country's telephone system, a government official said Sunday. Ali Ma'ruf, deputy chief of the Telephone and Telecommunication Authority, said the 7,100-circuit international exchange was now in use. He said the full project, to be completed over the next two years, would include 700,000 telephone lines and a telephone network covering the entire country. Kuwait extended loans totalling \$180 million for the project in which Germany's Siemens A.G. is the leading contractor, he said. Asked when all those applying for phone lines, especially in Damascus, would get lines Mr. Ma'ruf said he expected the shortage would be met by 1998. The government has approved another 260,000-line project and work is expected to start after completion of the current one.

Ozal starts tour of ex-Soviet states

ANKARA (R) — Turkish President Turgut Ozal has begun an 11-day tour of five ex-Soviet states as part of Ankara's efforts to widen cooperation, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Sunday. Mr. Ozal's tour, lasting through April 15, will take him to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and on the last leg to Azerbaijan, where the Armenian forces have gained control of almost 10 PCT of Azeri territory in the last few days. Turkey said Saturday it would not allow passage of aid convoys bound for Armenia. Mr. Ozal, in an airport statement made no mention of the Armenian attacks, but said he would discuss with its counterparts the implementation of various agreements already signed and exchange views on further cooperation. Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin is also taking part in the trip.

Turkish BBC guide to be tried in Iraq

LONDON (R) — A Turkish guide who led a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) film crew on a fatal trip into northern Iraq is to be tried for murder by Iraqi Kurds, the Sunday Times reported. Crew-members Nick Deila Casa, his wife Rosanna and Charles Maxwell disappeared while covering the Kurdish rebellion against the Baghdad government after the end of the Gulf war. The bodies of the two men were found in May 1991, two months after their disappearance, but Rosanna is still missing. The Sunday Times said Hashim Ciftci, a Turkish Kurd, faced the death penalty if found guilty at the hearing due in the next six weeks in the city of Erbil, in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq. The newspaper said Mr. Ciftci, described as a deserter from the Turkish army, had told British policemen who visited him in prison in northern Iraq that he shot Mr. Deila Casa and Mr. Maxwell after an argument over money. The report said he claimed that he allowed Rosanna to go free but Kurdish sources suspect that he also murdered her. Two other Turkish Kurds were also expected to stand trial accused of aiding and abetting Mr. Ciftci. The trial can take place in northern Iraq because the Kurds have set up their own judicial system, independent of Baghdad, the Sunday Times said.

Iran, Malaysia sign economic accords

NICOSIA (AP) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad met in Tehran Sunday with Iranian officials and supervised the signing of several agreements to boost economic ties between the two countries, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast quoted Mr. Mahathir as saying in a meeting with Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, that his country was looking to speed up cooperation. In order to reduce our dependence on advanced countries of the West and the north we need a strong economy and a powerful government, and it is with this aim that we are ready for the speedy expansion of ties with Islamic Iran, the radio quoted Mr. Mahathir as saying. Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that Western countries were dependent on the vast resources of Islamic countries. Therefore Muslims can attain their rights by strengthening coexistence, unity, friendly ties and common thought. Mr. Mahathir's 180-member delegation, comprising officials and businessmen, met with Iranian officials and signed agreements on economic and commercial cooperation, the radio said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 26. Humidity reading: Amman 19 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	Dr. Bassem Karakash
Dr. Saad Al</td	

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1993 5

Egypt and Pakistan work together on Muslim militants

CAIRO (R) — Pakistan's interior minister will visit Egypt soon as part of an understanding to work together to prevent Egyptian Muslim militants using Pakistan's border province with Afghanistan as a base, diplomats said Sunday.

The agreement, from a meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was Pakistan's most direct response so far to charges by Egypt and other Arab states that Muslim militants waging war on them use Pakistan's Peshawar province as a refuge.

Pakistan, under increasing U.S. pressure for allegedly sponsoring terrorism, has said it will vet over the next month nearly 3,000 Arabs drawn to the province by the Afghan Mujahideen's 10-year "holy war" against a communist government in Kabul.

Pakistan Ambassador to Cairo Mohammad Wali Allah Khashgi told Reuters Mr. Sharif asked for the meeting with Mr. Mubarak while both were independently touring Germany last week.

Mr. Sharif, in an official statement sent to the Pakistani embassy in Cairo, said he informed Mr. Mubarak of Islamabad's plans to "strictly supervise" aid and relief groups in Peshawar.

"We both expressed concern at the extremist, militant activity by some elements in the region. I informed President Mubarak of the measures being taken to strictly supervise these activities," Mr. Sharif's statement said.

Torture in trade centre case

no surprise — Egyptian activist

CAIRO (R) — Charges that Egypt tortured a suspect in the bombing of New York's World Trade Centre are no surprise because "this happens always with political prisoners in Egypt," a local human rights group said Sunday.

Egyptian officials declined comment on accusations made in New York by Mohammad Abu Halima, whose brother Mahmoud Abu Halima was held 10 days before being handed over to the United States.

Mohammad Abu Halima told Reuters the Egyptian authorities beat his brother, burned him with cigarettes on most of his body, including his genitals, gave him electric shocks and threatened to rape his wife and mother and kill his son.

Hassan Bahaeddin, chairman of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights, told Reuters Sunday: "This is expected. I'm not surprised that they tortured Mahmoud Abu Halima this way."

"This happens always with political prisoners in Egypt and these methods will continue to happen in the future unless the state changes its policy."

"Torture methods used by the Egyptian authorities against political prisoners is our daily work. Sometimes they torture even innocent people who have no links to Muslim fundamentalists just because they are suspicious of them," Mr. Bahaeddin added.

He said all the torture methods mentioned by Mr. Abu Halima — beatings, burning cigarettes, electrifying sensitive organs in their bodies including genitals, and threats to rape the suspects' female relatives — were in common use in Egypt.

Egypt-born Mahmoud Abu Halima, 33, was arrested at his parents' home in Kafr Al Dawwar near Alexandria on March 14. He is accused of masterminding a blast that killed six and injured 1,000 in the New York skyscraper on Feb. 26.

Speaking after a visit to his brother's prison, Mohammad, 29, said Egyptian officials stripped his brother and blindfolded him during his captivity, beat him

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Marine convicted of misconduct in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — A Marine Saturday became the first U.S. serviceman convicted of misconduct during Operation Restore Hope after pleading guilty to stealing two canes from a vendor, then punching him when he gave chase.

The Marine, Larry T. Thomas, was sentenced to two months confinement and a month at hard labour. He also received a fine and a reduction in rank.

Mr. Thomas and two other Marines were leaving Mogadishu's main airport in a military vehicle when the vendor approached, said Marine Colonel Fred Peck, a U.S. military spokesman here.

Mr. Thomas grabbed two canes as the vehicle drove off and when the vendor caught up with the car, Thomas punched him several times in face, Col. Peck said.

Mr. Thomas is expected to be shipped back to Camp Pendleton in San Diego, to serve his time.

In an unrelated case, Marine gunnery sergeant Harry Conde, 33, faces a court-martial Monday on assault charges for shooting a Somali youth who swiped the sunglasses from his face. Sgt. Conde has said he thought he was being attacked and shot in self-defence.

In other developments, an Australian soldier became the 16th fatality among the U.S.-led coalition forces who arrived Dec. 9, to safeguard food shipments to the starving in this Horn of Africa country.

The Australian, Shannon McAliney, was killed in an apparently accidental shooting in Baidoa Friday night when he was times during the intense torture that he doesn't know what he said or did. But he does recall being forced to sign something, but since he was blindfolded he doesn't know what he signed," Mr. Mohammad said.

"We cannot comment on this report," an official of the Egyptian Interior Ministry told Reuters on Sunday.

CANADIANS SENT HOME

Four Canadian soldiers were flown back to Ottawa Sunday after being arrested for the possible murder in detention of a Somali man last month, a Canadian military spokesman said.

A fifth suspect, alleged to have been involved in the same incident, is in a serious condition in hospital in Canada after having tried to hang himself while in custody in Somalia. Captain Karen Mai told Reuters.

She said two military investigators had been sent to Somalia from Canada to investigate the death of Shidane Omar Aroni, who was found beaten unconscious in a holding cell at the Canadian forces camp in Belet Uen, northeast of Mogadishu, on March 16.

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Grand National turns into grand farce

Prestigious race declared void after false starts

LIVERPOOL (Agencies) — Britain's Grand National Steeplechase, one of the world's great sporting events, turned from a racing extravaganza into a fiasco of false starts and red flags. Race lovers called it a "national disgrace".

The famously grueling contest — a sporting and betting institution — was declared void Saturday after runners galloped off down the course thinking the race was on when it was really off because of a second false start.

As bookmakers faced the gigantic task of returning millions of bets, officials announced a review of starting procedures after one of the darkest days in British horse racing history.

"National disgrace", "national disaster" and "grand farcical" was how the tabloid press saw the spectacle.

Peter Greenall, chairman of the Aintree Course, said there was only a "small chance" that this year's race could be re-run.

The race ran into difficulties from the outset when a protest by animal rights activists helped up proceedings. Then there was trouble with the tape at the starting line, a false start followed and the 39 runners assembled again.

A second false start was declared when the tape tangled with horses and jockeys, but most of the runners charged off oblivious after a so-called recall man charged with flagging them down apparently failed to do so.

The recall flag was not shown the second time. It was an error. The flagman was in the correct position. The race has been declared void in the most regrettable of circumstances," clerk of the

course Rod Fabricius said.

Officials waving red flags tried in vain to stall the race and several runners made it to the post, to the anger and bewilderment of the 50,000-strong crowd and the millions of television viewers who had tuned into the racing showpiece.

The face of "winning jockey" John White crumpled with anguish when he realised it was a phantom victory.

"I'm quite certain that additional contingency measures and precautions will be taken to avoid a similar incident," Fabricius said. "Undoubtedly the starter could have used a flag start after the (starting) tapes failed the first time."

At the end of the second circuit, "victory" went to 50-1 outsider Esha Ness with white in the saddle, who held off the fast-finishing Irish raider Caherwillah, a 25-1 chance.

As the realisation dawned that the race was a shambles, trainers and jockeys were incensed and distraught.

Trainer Jenny Pitman stormed into the weighing room in tears and shouted: "You must stop this race what are you doing? My bloody horse has already gone one circuit. I don't want to win the National like this."

Follow-up David Elsworth said: "It was a shambles and a great tragedy for racing."

The starter, captain Keith Brown, was booed by the crowd when he walked towards the weighing room from the start and had to be escorted by police as the crowd screamed abuse.

Bookmakers, who face a night-

mare having to pay back stake money from millions of bets, appealed for calm when the betting shops open Monday morning.

Spokesman Wally Pyrah for Coral Bookmakers said: "It will be bedlam with people queuing up to get their money back."

Champion jockey Peter Scudmore, rider of Captain Dibble, said: "People have suggested we turn up next Saturday and do it again but we can't. We will be the laughing stock of the world."

Grand National's history of drama, tragedy and treachery

No other race in the British horseracing calendar has produced as much drama, thrills and controversy as the Grand National Steeplechase.

Saturday's debacle, when the 4 1/2-mile (7.2-kilometre) race was declared void after jockeys failed to hear a false start call, is the lastest in a history of dramas going back to when it started in 1836.

Since then there have been stories of heroism, tragedy and even treachery.

In 1885, a former winner, Zoedone, was poisoned shortly before the race to prevent him winning.

In 1924, a former plough horse, Master Robert, won the race. Two years later, the one-eyed Glenside was the only horse in 13 years to have died although there have been fatalities since the most feared jump, Becher's Brook, was modified in 1989 by levelling the landing side.

In 1938, 17-year-old English jockey Bruce Hobbs guided the

American-bred Battleship to victory. Hobbs still is the youngest winning jockey and battleship remains the last stallion to triumph.

Sheila's Cottage, winner in 1948, celebrated by biting off the finger of her jockey, Arthur Thompson.

The 1957 came the most dramatic finish.

Devon Loch, owner by Queen Mother Elizabeth and ridden by Dick Francis, was powering towards the finish line clear of the field when he appeared to jump a non-existent fence and lost his footing only 50 yards from home.

E.S.B. overtook the spread-eagled Devon Loch to win. Although the beaten horse faded into obscurity, Francis went on to become a successful thriller writer.

In 1967, 100-1 shot Foinavon took advantage of a pile-up involving 20 other horses at the 23rd fence and romped clear to victory.

In 1981, Bob Champion, who fought and beat cancer, rode Aldaniti to victory and the triumph later became the theme of a movie, "Champion."

In 1986, west tip won 14 months after he was near to death after a collision with a lorry.

The race has been a target for animal rights protesters who claim it is too gruelling for the horses.

The race is some 10 minutes long and the horses must clear 30 fences, some with a deep drop on the other side. In the last 25 years, 13 horses have died although there have been no fatalities since the most feared jump, Becher's Brook, was modified in 1989 by levelling the landing side.

"It's been a great tour in Asia and it's always fun for me to play in Asia because tennis is really starting to pick up here," Chang said. "I like to try and encourage them."

Chang was seeded behind world number one Jim Courier, whose title hopes crashed at Saturday's semifinals, then withstood a remarkable comeback by the Argentine to prevail 6-0, 7-6.

Sanchez came within one game of being knocked out by the fourth-seeded Capriati, but roared back for a 2-6, 7-5, 6-0 win.

Graf goes for her 7th career title on the same clay court where she claimed her very first in 1986.

Sanchez is looking to notch number 10. The Spanish speedster won her ninth title two weeks ago when she beat Graf at the Lipton Championships.

Sabatini, who won this tournament the past two years, at first appeared paralysed by Graf, who ran out to a huge 6-0, 5-1 advantage.



Michael Chang (right) and Amos Mansdorf raise their winners' plate at the Salem Open tournament Sunday (AFP photo)

Chang wins hard-fought match at Salem Open

OSAKA (R) — Michael Chang won a popular victory Sunday with a hard-fought 6-4, 6-4 win over Amos Mansdorf in the final of the Salem Open.

The second-seeded Chinese-American, who has been the focus of thrilled autograph hunters in this western Japanese city, won a fierce baseline battle in which neither player was able to win a set in the first five games of the first set.

"It's been a great tour in Asia and it's always fun for me to play in Asia because tennis is really starting to pick up here," Chang said. "I like to try and encourage them."

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Crash hospitalises Mansell

PHOENIX (AP) — A hard crash Saturday in practice at Phoenix International Raceway left Nigel Mansell hospitalised with a concussion that will keep the English driver from making his Indycar oval racing debut in Sunday's Valvoline 200.

Mansell also suffered a contusion to his right shoulder from the safety harness, but no other injuries were discovered after he was flown by helicopter to Good Samaritan Regional Medical Centre in Phoenix. A car scan was negative, according to Indycar officials.

Dr. Stephan Olvey, Indycar's director of medical affairs, and Dr. Alan Tyroch, the attending trauma surgeon, issued a joint statement saying Mansell would be kept overnight for observation and was expected to be released soon. Olvey added, however, that under series rules Mansell could not be cleared medically to drive in Sunday's 200-mile (322-kilometre) race.



World champion Wayne Rainey (No. 1) of the U.S. and Austrian Daryl Beattie (No. 4) take a corner during the Malaysian Grand Prix at Shah Alam Circuit Sunday. Rainey won the race with a time of 44 minutes 54.102 seconds (AFP photo)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ A ♦ Q
♥ A ♦ Q
♦ J 6 2

* K ♦ 8 4 3

WEST
♦ 10 7 3

♥ 9 5 3

♦ Q 10 7 4

♦ 9 5 3

* J 7 2

EAST
♦ 9 8 6 2

♥ K 10 6 4 2

♦ 8 7

♦ 9 5 3

* A 10 9 5

SOUTH
♦ 8 6 2

♥ 7 5

♦ 9 8 5

* 6

The bidding:

NORTH East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♦

We are indebted to the newsletter of the Vanderbilt Bridge Club in Manhasset, N.Y., for this hand. See if you can make six hearts after the lead of a low diamond.

The bidding is particularly interesting. There are those who suggest that South's bid of three hearts is not forcing. The fallacy in that reasoning is that no one can possibly know the hand will produce exactly nine tricks at hearts, rather than eight or nine at no trump or 10 at

hearts. The loss of bidding space could prove very costly if South had to jump to four hearts to show a

good hand, or bid a three-card suit to force partner to bid again.

Simple souls will rely on the spade finesse for the slam and go down. However, the first problem is to attempt to avoid losing a diamond trick, so you should play the diamond from dummy. If East has the queen, you are going to have to dispose of a diamond on a high club, so you will have no alternative to the spade finesse.

When the jack of diamonds wins, your best line is to come to hand with a high diamond and lead a club toward the board. If the ace of clubs is with West the hand is made, unless East can get a diamond ruff.

Otherwise, if West ruffs with the ace you have two spade discards on clubs. If West ducks, you have no club loser.

Unfortunately, East captures the queen of clubs with the ace and returns a diamond. You win, cross to the queen of hearts and ruff a club, go back to the ace of hearts and ruff another club. When both defenders follow, you are home. Down the last trump, enter dummy with the ace of spades and discard your two spades on the king of clubs and the established fifth card in the suit.

The bidding is particularly interesting. There are those who suggest that South's bid of three hearts is not forcing. The fallacy in that reasoning is that no one can possibly know the hand will produce exactly nine tricks at hearts, rather than eight or nine at no trump or 10 at

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY APRIL 5, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

how you would like your association to trend in the future and make agreements.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about what you can do anything that will jeopardise your good name and reputation. Show that you have your feet on the ground.

ARIES:

(March 21 to April 19)

This is the day to retire pretty much within yourself or with a confidential advisor and privately work out arrangements for the future.

TAURUS:

(April 20 to May 20) A fine day for finding the ways and means to bring those personal desires that mean the most to you closer into your orbit of influence.

GEMINI:

(May 21 to June 21)

Get your house in order in the world of outside activity so that those in positions of influence will be eager to aid you to attain your ambitions.

MOON CHILDREN:

(June 22 to July 21)

You should now be eager to accept some new plan of action that is at your fingertips for it can make your life much richer and fuller.

LEO:

(July 22 to August 21)

Decide just how much you want to put out of a material nature in order to have yours on a better basis and seek aid of an astute business person.

FISCHER:

(Feb. 20 to March 20)

Think about the various personal longings that you have and make some overt actions to make them an actual part of your daily existence.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a good common sense awareness of what to do today so that you will be able to increase the good things in your life, with the aid of an expert.

PISCES:

(March 20 to April 18)

Top seed Steffi Graf dethroned defending champion Gabriela Sabatini and second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario rallied to beat Jennifer Capriati in semifinals at the \$750,000 Family Circle Cup tennis tournament Saturday.

Graf looked about to demolish the third-seeded Sabatini, then withstood a remarkable comeback by the Argentine to prevail 6-0, 7-6.

Sanchez came within one game of being knocked out by the fourth-seeded Capriati, but roared back for a 2-6, 7-5, 6-0 win.

Graf goes for her 7th career title on the same clay court where

Economy

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING FAV.	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
	VOLUME JD	PRICE	PRICE
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JORDAN BANK OF JORDAN	39,200	130,000	130,500
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	27,200	22,000	21,500
THE BANK OF JORDAN	90,632	3,950	4,000
JORDAN EQUITY BANK	21,013	3,880	3,890
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	12,000	4,000	4,000
BEST BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	13,160	4,790	4,700
BEST BUSINESS BANK	2,185	4,380	4,370
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK FOR HOUSING	2,631	6,210	6,310
BEST ESTATE INVESTMENT	49,638	5,640	5,550
JORDAN INSURANCE	1,208	1,720	1,720
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	115,728	4,140	4,160
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	2,570	2,450	2,370
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	5,632	3,120	3,120
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	18,408	3,200	3,200
JORDAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	17,440	3,120	3,120
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	4,647	1,420	1,420
JORDAN NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES	4,071	5,900	5,900
JORDAN PETROLEUM	1,208	1,200	1,200
JORDAN PAPER & CARBOARD FACTORIES	547	2,540	2,510
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	27,426	1,680	1,690
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	26,273	0,880	0,840
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	1,093	1,650	1,600
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	10,420	1,650	1,650
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	35,423	2,420	2,390
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	10,420	1,650	1,650
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	21,144	10,450	10,400
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	6,688	6,800	6,800
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	6,100	6,250	6,250
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	6,750	4,700	4,500
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	11,622	2,200	2,200
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	1,093	2,200	2,200
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	4,807	0,750	0,740
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	13,200	12,150	12,200
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	341,928	3,420	3,500
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	341,928	3,420	3,500
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	9,384	0,920	0,920
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	12,212	3,280	3,180
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	21,144	10,450	10,400
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	7,377	6,020	6,200
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	6,056	0,960	0,960
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	6,328	1,680	1,610
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	6,328	1,680	1,610
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	39,125	14,020	14,050
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	39,125	14,020	14,050
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	45,154	0,580	0,680
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	9,776	8,780	8,750
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	23,430	4,400	4,400
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	95,362	4,400	4,380
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	10,420	2,020	2,020
JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICALS LTD	14,603	1,680	1,680
GRAND TOTAL	1,878,740		
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	114,650		
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	95645		

Financial Markets

Jordanian
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (March 29 - April 2, 1993)

AMMAN — The dollar lost considerable ground against other major currencies last week. While trading activity was driven by technical considerations, which were not in favour of the dollar, the thinness of trading volume exaggerated exchange rate movements, causing the dollar's decline. The yen, on the other hand, was a major performer, as it hit new record levels against the dollar, helped by the emergence of a new market outlook regarding its short term direction. The U.S. dollar thus ended the week 2.1 per cent lower against the mark, 2.3 per cent lower against sterling and 2.5 per cent lower against the yen.

The dollar fell against European currencies during Monday's Far East trading hours, as the mark surged against the yen. The U.S. currency continued to decline against the mark during the next two days, falling below 1.61 marks. Trading volume remained very thin, as many traders refrained from adopting new positions before the end of the month (March), which also marked the end of the Japanese fiscal year.

Reports said that the dollar had started the week on a weak technical tone. It had failed to breach resistance at 1.64 marks the previous week, at a time when many traders had substantial long dollar positions accumulated. In addition, the latest batch of U.S. economic reports had come within expectations, indicating that the pace of the U.S. recovery was not moving fast enough to justify a significant dollar rally. Indications of an easing of political tensions in Russia, and that the Bundesbank was not going to lower German interest rates after its council meeting Thursday provided traders with opportunities to sell dollars. News that the U.S. Consumer Confidence index slipped to 62.6 per cent in March against expectations of 66 per cent further hampered the dollar. Analysts and observers remained sceptical of jumping to any conclusions over the dollar's short term direction and the state of the U.S. economic recovery, however.

As for the Japanese yen, analysts maintained that many traders and investors were starting to realise that political pressure was not the only factor that can produce a yen appreciation, as they had underestimated the impact of the fiscal stimulus package and the gigantic Japanese trade surplus. The yen, hence, started a steep appreciation against the dollar by Wednesday and continued to hit new records till the end of the week. Traders were further encouraged to bid for the yen when it became clear that the Bank of Japan was not really serious about halting its currency's rise for the time being, and that any intervention was more likely to remain nominal.

Confirmation that the Bundesbank did not lower German interest rates, and the release in the U.S. of the weekly jobless claims data predicated a sharp drop in the dollar Thursday, as the unemployment figures were much worse than had been expected. The dollar closed in New York at 1.5920 marks, its lowest closing level of the week.

But the U.S. unit recovered slightly against the European currencies in late Friday trading, although it still failed to rise above 1.60 marks. It ended the week in New York at 1.5995 marks.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	26/3/1993	2/4/1993	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.4870	1.5215	2.32 %
Deutsche Mark	1.6335	1.5995	2.15 %
Swiss Franc	1.5133	1.4795	2.28 %
French Franc	5.5540	5.4355	2.18 %
Japanese Yen	116.55	113.75	2.46 %

USD Per STG

Currency	26/3/1993	2/4/1993	
1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	
U.S. Dollar	3.18	3.50	3.06
Sterling Pound	5.94	5.81	5.81
Deutsche Mark	8.25	6.75	8.18
Swiss Franc	5.13	4.25	5.18
French Franc	10.75	8.45	10.31
Japanese Yen	5.59	3.34	3.12

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 4/4/1993

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Azeris muster forces to fight back

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan mustered fresh fighting strength Sunday to repel Armenian forces it said had captured nearly a tenth of its territory.

An Azeri television journalist in the capital Baku said the government was hastily assembling fresh combat units to repel a major Armenian offensive.

"New battalions are being formed, including a women's battalion," the journalist said by telephone.

The former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan are locked in an undeclared war over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. More than 2,500 people have been killed in five years of fighting.

Azeri radio said President Abulfaz Elchibey, who declared a two-month state of emergency throughout the country Friday, had appointed 21 military commanders of cities and districts.

Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry said Saturday that Armenian forces had seized the western Azeri town of Kelbadzhar and controlled a broad swathe of surrounding territory.

It said Armenia had succeeded in punching a new land corridor through Azeri territory to Nagorno-Karabakh, and almost a tenth of Azerbaijan was in enemy hands.

U.S. may help Russia gain access to arms markets

VANCOUVER, Canada (R) — The United States believes it can and should help open new markets to Russia's arms industry and this is among the subjects to be discussed Sunday between President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, a senior U.S. official said Saturday.

Fears have grown in the West that as Russia plunges deeper into economic and political chaos, Moscow will be tempted to sell arms indiscriminately for hard currency.

"That's something we're looking at very specifically, how can we give them access to legitimate markets so they don't have to go out and shop their stuff around in illegitimate markets," the administration official told reporters.

"I think there are several ways we can look at doing that and that's one of the subjects we'll be talking about tomorrow," he said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, briefed reporters during the first day of summit talks between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin, which focused on ways to help Russia make the transition to free markets and democracy.

Mr. Clinton has made stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems a priority of his administration. U.S. officials acknowledge that Russia's arms industry is a lucrative export earner.

These officials have indicated they are not trying to stop the Russian sales altogether, just limit them to the least destabilizing kinds of weapons and keep them from governments the United States regards as renegade.

Russian officials recently asked Washington to help them gain access to appropriate arms markets, which they say are now closed to them.

"We realize that they have some legitimate needs for access to high technology markets but they have to stay within the boundaries and that's very important," the U.S. official said, adding: "That's what the trade-off is. That's what the partnership is."

Russia's sale of an advanced submarine to Iran was a major concern to Washington. Some U.S. defence experts said it would greatly increase Tehran's capability in the Gulf.

Several months ago, however, Mr. Yeltsin suggested that his country could stop producing military submarines.

Central Intelligence Agency Director James Woolsey recently told Congress about concerns that Russia was pursuing the sale of missiles that violate an international accord designed to limit transfers of destabilizing arms to regions like the Middle East.

One sale involved rocket engine technology to India.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Saturday that Russia has promised the United States that Moscow will not follow through on certain sales.

He refused to go into detail but told the Cable News Network (CNN) Newsmauer Saturday programme: "We received indications from them with respect to various sales that they won't make...their cooperation has been good up to this point and we're continuing to negotiate with them on other sensitive matters around the world."

Mr. Elchibey, head of the nationalist Popular Front, was elected president last June, three months after his predecessor resigned in disgrace over a series of defeats in the Karabakh conflict.

In Friday's emergency decree, Mr. Elchibey, 53, ordered a curfew and banned political activity by parties and movements that might destabilize the situation in the Transcaucasian state.

Russia's ITAR-TASS News Agency reported from Baku that the Azeri town of Kazakh and Tazz, near the Armenian border in northwestern Azerbaijan, had come under Armenian artillery fire. It said three people had been killed.

The journalist, who visited Kelbadzhar region Saturday, said there was intensive fighting there and thousands of refugees, some driving sheep and cattle, were trying to flee.

Azerbaijan claims Armenian regular forces and Russian troops launched a two-pronged attack on Kelbadzhar on March 27 to drive a new land corridor through to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Most of the enclave's population is Armenian, but it is surrounded by Azeri territory and theoretically ruled by Baku.

Armenia denies its regular troops are involved, saying the

fighting is being conducted by self-defence forces from Nagorno-Karabakh.

Felix Manikyan, Armenia's permanent representative in Moscow, quoted Karabakh officials as saying they launched the latest offensive because Azeri forces were using Kelbadzhar as a base for shelling Armenian and Karabakh territory.

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Armenia has a mutual defence pact with Russia and several other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), obliging Moscow to protect Yerevan if Armenia's territorial integrity is threatened.

Azerbaijan, which is not party to the CIS treaty, has traditional close ties to NATO member Turkey.

An Azeri Defence Ministry statement said about 40,000 civilians had been evacuated from the battle zone, but 15,000 more had been trapped in the south of Kelbadzhar.

Refugees were trekking north along the only road out of Kelbadzhar.

PHNOM PENH (R) — Three U.N. peacekeepers killed by Khmer Rouge guerrillas were victims of what appeared to be cold-blooded executions, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday.

In Phnom Penh, Prime Minister Hun Sen proposed at a meeting of the all-faction Supreme National Council (SNC) that Khmer Rouge leader Kieu Samphan should be tried for genocide for ordering massacres of ethnic Vietnamese civilians.

Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. peacekeeping operation, told the same meeting — which Kieu Samphan attended — that

"About 150 civilians have died on the mountain pass as a result of the shelling and frostbite," the statement said.

Turkey said Saturday it had halted the passage of European aid to energy-starved Armenia.

"As long as blood continues to be shed, Turkey cannot allow Armenia to be aided through its territory even though it is humanitarian aid," government spokesman Akin Goncen said in a statement.

"Wheat delivery has been stopped. Any other passage will not be permitted," he said.

Mr. Goncen said Turkey had contacted Russian, U.S. and French leaders and diplomats over Armenian attacks on Kelbadzhar.

"All the three countries have appealed to Yerevan but the attacks have not stopped yet," he said.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said earlier Saturday Turkey was running out of patience with its neighbour.

"If the Armenian oppression of the Azeri people does not end shortly and the attacks are not stopped, it would be known that Turkey's patience is running out," he was quoted by Anatolian News Agency as telling a crowd in the western city of Bursa.

An Armenian fighter takes aim before using his anti-tank weapon against Azeri positions in Nagorno-Karabakh (AFP photo)

U.N. resumes aid to Sarajevo; food convoy reaches Srebrenica

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations resumed aid flights to Sarajevo Sunday and sent a convoy to the besieged Muslim town of Srebrenica to deliver food and evacuate refugees.

The air bridge to the Bosnian capital was halted more than two weeks ago after a British cargo plane was fired on by an anti-aircraft battery as it prepared to land.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia said 17 flights, each carrying 10 tonnes of food, were expected during the day and 16 Monday.

The flow of essential supplies in Sarajevo coincided with renewed efforts to alleviate the plight of 40,000 Muslims blockaded in Srebrenica since the start of Bosnia's civil war a year ago.

At a meeting in New York Saturday, the Security Council renewed a call for more U.N. troops to be stationed in eastern Bosnia, where Serb forces made

big advances against Muslim settlements earlier this month.

It did not respond to a plea by Sadako Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, for U.N. forces to turn the Srebrenica area into a safe haven guarded by U.N. troops.

The Bosnian Serb parliament at the weekend rejected part of a peace plan for Bosnia that would redraw the former Yugoslav republic's ethnic map because the Serbs would be forced to give up land they now hold.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he believed the Serbs might still accept the Bosnian peace plan drawn up by mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen and indicated it might be adjusted to meet Serb concerns.

Hardline Bosnian Serb deputies meeting in the southern Bosnian town of Bileca ignored warnings that rejection of the maps proposed by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen could bring even tougher U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic denied that the parliament had completely abandoned the Vance-Owen plan.

Los Angeles prepares for new riots

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Calmly and methodically, with military precision and business savvy, the city is preparing for the possibility of another round of rioting.

From the police with their new riot gear to the shopkeepers with an extra gun under the counter, everyone seems to have a contingency plan for the day verdicts are announced in the second trial of four police officers for beating black motorist Rodney King.

"We feel that the only way to handle this thing is to be aware, in a mature way, and be prepared," said John Cenac of Jones Lumber Co., which plans to hire more security guards for verdict day.

Jones Lumber is in south-central Los Angeles, in the heart of three days of rioting last year that followed the officers' acquittal on most charges in state court. The violence left more than 50 people dead and caused \$1 billion in damage.

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Voters punished the Socialists for record unemployment and financial scandals, cutting their seats in parliament to 54 from 249.

Spurred by the approach of the 1995 presidential election and the task of rebuilding the crumbling left, Mr. Rocard could ill afford to await a year-end congress proposed by Mr. Fabius.

"When a party suffers such a crushing defeat, the leadership must be called into question," said former Industry Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn, a follower of Mr. Rocard ally Lionel Jospin.

Even before last month's elections Mr. Rocard blamed Mr. Mitterrand for the Socialists' plight in a clear effort to dodge fallout from the party's defeat.

The unseating of Mr. Fabius, who helped Mr. Mitterrand sidetrack Mr. Rocard before his 1981 presidential victory, leaves the head of state even more isolated than before.

But the deep antagonisms that Mr. Rocard's coup revealed raised questions about the party's very future and its value as a political springboard.

"He seems to have inherited an empty shell," the weekly newspaper Le Journal Du Dimanche said Sunday.

Party grandees and former government ministers Pierre Mauroy and Louis Mermaz declined to join Mr. Rocard, and up-and-coming militants close to European Commission President Jacques Delors threatened to oust him from the party.

The unseating of Mr. Rocard is considered Mr. Rocard's most serious rival among potential Socialist candidates for the presidency.

In a sign of the Socialists' disarray, Jean-Pierre Chevénement, head of a far-left faction, was expected to resign from the party.

U.N.: Khmer Rouge killed peacekeepers in cold blood

PHNOM PENH (R) — Three U.N. peacekeepers killed by Khmer Rouge guerrillas were victims of what appeared to be cold-blooded executions, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday.

In Phnom Penh, Prime Minister Hun Sen proposed at a meeting of the all-faction Supreme National Council (SNC) that Khmer Rouge leader Kieu Samphan should be tried for genocide for ordering massacres of ethnic Vietnamese civilians.

Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. peacekeeping operation, told the same meeting — which Kieu Samphan attended — that

about 100 people had been killed in racial and political attacks in the past month. They included members of his force.

Mr. Akashi's U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has blamed the Khmer Rouge for most of the attacks.

The three peacekeepers, all Bulgarians, were killed in the southern province of Kompong Speu Friday after their attackers had been invited to dinner at their base, UNTAC spokesman Eric Falt told a news briefing after the SNC meeting.

Meanwhile the queue of countries eager to get closer to the European Community will move forward a few important paces Monday when EC foreign ministers deal with suitors from wealthy Scandinavia to the former Soviet Bloc.

Patten ready for Hong Kong talks

LONDON (R) — Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten said Sunday he was willing to talk to China over his controversial democracy plans for the colony "at any time, any place" and planned to remain in the job until 1997.

Mr. Patten, in an interview with British Broadcasting Corporation Television, said China had been willing to talk "tango anywhere" — repeating a phrase, ridiculed in China, that it took "two to tango" in talks aimed at resolving the Anglo-Chinese dispute over his plans to increase democracy in the colony.

Mr. Patten said China had at first refused to talk unless his proposals were withdrawn. They had then agreed to "talks about talks" but these had broken down over Chinese objections to the inclusion of Hong Kong officials in the British delegation.

The governor, on a two-week visit to consult with Prime Minister John Major, said he felt sure Peking would eventually agree to talk at any time, any place,

Kozyrev predicts chaos if Yeltsin falls

VANCOUVER, Canada (R) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Sunday predicted "chaos and disintegration" for his country if President Boris Yeltsin was ousted from power.

Mr. Kozyrev, accompanying Mr. Yeltsin at his Vancouver summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton, said in a television interview the Russian leader's conservative enemies, if they took power, would try to restore the Soviet Union, "which is impossible."

"Yes, back to the cold war," the minister said on the NBC programme *Meet The Press*.

This attempt will fail but it will cost dearly to Russia and probably to the outside world, and the most probable outcome after a short period of dictatorship... will be just chaos and

disintegration of the country," Mr. Kozyrev said, speaking in English.

Mr. Kozyrev, who has pursued a strongly pro-Western policy, is along with Mr. Yeltsin one of the principal targets for criticism in the conservative Russian legislature, which came close to impeaching the president a week ago.

Mr. Clinton is due Sunday to announce details of an aid package for Russia as part of an attempt by Western leaders to bolster Mr. Yeltsin's economic programme.

Mr. Kozyrev said it was hard to predict the outcome of a referendum called in Russia for April 25 as a vote of confidence on Mr. Yeltsin, but said the president had received a warm reception in the city of Magadan on his way to

the summit.

Mr. Kozyrev described as a "tragic mistake" the decision by Bosnian Serbs to reject the peace plan for the former Yugoslav republic put forward by mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen.

But, expressing apparent scepticism about tough action against the Serbs, he called for "pragmatic approaches" to what he described as an alarming situation in Bosnia.

He said Russia would continue to press the warring factions in Bosnia to accept a compromise based on the Vance-Owen plan.

"I hardly see anyone in the United States or elsewhere who is prepared to send at least more than 100,000 ground troops to fight in Bosnia. It seems to be totally out of the question," he said.

South Africa in violation of the nuclear treaty.

"Nevertheless," it added, "the United States does not utter a word about its own criminal act and the illegality of the development of nuclear weapons by South Africa," but raises suspicion about North Korea's nuclear programme.

"This clearly shows that the real intention of the United States to stifle our republic," it declared.

Meanwhile a British Sunday newspaper said it had obtained classified intelligence documents which confirmed widely held suspicions that North Korea was building a secret nuclear weapons plant.

The Sunday Times said Western intelligence experts have discovered "alarming evidence" of a nuclear plant northwest of the capital at Yongbyon and believed North Korea was closer to building a nuclear bomb than Iraq was

before the Gulf war.

"Classified documents obtained by the Sunday Times show that for the last 18 months the secretive Stalinist dictatorship has been building a heavily disguised underground nuclear complex," said the report in early editions of the newspaper distributed Saturday night.

The Sunday Times said satellite photographs showed the plant, 60 miles (100 kilometres) northwest